

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 9, 2011

Background notes for Monday, September 12th

Park and Recreation Commission Agenda

FENCING PROJECTS

The bids were opened, and we are in the process of hiring Steelco Fence to do the fence replacement work at the Mills diamond and along Hillside Avenue at Cricket Field. Once all the contractual work is done, the work will begin this month. I don't have a specific date, yet. The work at Cricket won't interfere with any uses. Little League has a permit at Mills for the fall season, but was notified this summer that Mills would only be available outside of the time needed for the fencing work.

NEEDHAM HIGH COACHES MEETING

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen and I attended a meeting last week for all Needham High coaches. They have several important training discussions, and the Athletic Director invites some of us from other Town departments to also speak to the coaches.

GREENE'S FIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The first meeting of this advisory group was held last week. Selectmen representative John Bulian is chairing the committee and he had each member outline hopes and dreams for the park. With the assistance of other Town staff, I'll provide some background information on some of the "dream" concepts at their next meeting, to help the group start to narrow down what they hope will be the scope of future work at Greene's Field.

RIDGE HILL PROJECT

I'm assisting Conservation Agent Patty Barry on a project out to bid for Ridge Hill. Through CPA, the Conservation Commission received funds to replace the bridge on the Swamp Trail, but it's been bid a few times without takers or for far more money than what was authorized. A second funding source has become available, and the project is being re-bid with a second project. The Charles River Trail is on the other side of Charles River Street and has a failed bridge that leads over a brook and eventually to the Charles River. As Patty Barry will be going out on maternity leave in a few weeks, I'll assist her part-time staff member with choosing the design firm for these projects and help her with oversight during the design phase.

CLAXTON BATTING CAGE

The installation is complete. The netting was going to wait until the spring for the spring NHS season, as it was the Booster Club that purchased the batting cage. Fastpitch made a request through the Town Manager to have the netting put up this fall, so Parks and Forestry has put it on their schedule.

FALL REGISTRATIONS

Tuesday was the start of fall program registrations. Senior Exercise, Kids Night Out and youth tennis lessons have filled up quickly, as are some of the other programs. Just before the brochure went to print, we were told that the IT Department would be moving back to Town Hall this weekend, requiring a full shutdown of the Town's network, including our on-line registration program. But a short delay has pushed that move to the following weekend, so hopefully it won't be an inconvenience to anyone trying to register on-line. The other Town Hall departments are still on target to move back to Town Hall over the Columbus Day weekend, so we are starting to see signs of packing up in the building.

PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE

Some of the tasks related to playground maintenance are shifting over to DPW Parks and Forestry, but can only be handled through overtime paid through our department. I'll need to request a shift in the budget, moving some contractual services funding to salaries. The funds are budgeted for playground maintenance, so it's just a shift of resources. A private contractor will continue to do repair work. This transfer of funds needs to go through the Finance Committee and Town Meeting in November.
